



# NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD  
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street  
Sacramento  
California 95814

**BILL LEONARD**  
Member, BOE  
Second District

**RAMON J. HIRSIG**  
Executive Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LEONARD ANNOUNCES TAXPAYERS CAN SCHEDULE  
APPOINTMENTS FOR TAX ASSISTANCE**

Bill Leonard, Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), announced today that California taxpayers needing help will be able to schedule appointments with tax specialists at four test locations starting on May 1, 2006. The pilot appointment service will be available for six months at BOE district offices in Sacramento, Laguna Hills, West Covina, and San Jose.

"I have always thought appointment scheduling would improve the level of customer service we provide California taxpayers," said Leonard. "I think the business owners of this state particularly appreciate services that are fast, effective and convenient."

The Sacramento office, located in Leonard's district, serves almost 80,000 California retailers.

Taxpayers can use their scheduled appointment times for help registering for a permit, completing their tax returns, closing out permits, or finding other tax assistance. The pilot program will continue until October 31, 2006. Taxpayers visiting the four test offices may continue to walk-in without an appointment for service.

If the program proves successful, it may be expanded statewide. No other state tax agency currently offers appointment scheduling at service centers.

Appointments will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Taxpayers can schedule appointments up to 30 days in advance by calling the following numbers:

Sacramento	(916) 227-5079	San Jose	(408) 277-1446
Laguna Hills	(949) 461-5756	West Covina	(626) 480-7255

The Board has also recently expanded its electronic services by redesigning its website ([www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)) to allow free electronic filing for eligible sales and use taxpayers.

Bill Leonard, of Sacramento/Ontario, was elected to his first term as Second District Member of the State Board of Equalization in 2002. Prior to his election, he served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects almost \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

Other Board Members include Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

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